

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A sample container, comprising:

a closed end;

an opened end; ~~and~~

a closure assembly, wherein said closed end and said opened end are substantially equal in diameter and said closure assembly releasably seals said opened end; and wherein said closure assembly comprises:

a handle having threads;

a flange;

a hold down ring;

a sealing ring; and

a bottom support having threads to releasably mate with the handle wherein the flange is configured to mate with the opened end and the hold down ring and the sealing ring are disposed between the bottom support, the flange and the opened end.

2. (Original) The container of claim 1, wherein said container is cylindrical.

3. (Original) The container of claim 1, wherein said container further includes a lug surface and a vertical inner surface disposed at said opened end.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The container of claim [4] 1, wherein said hold down ring is a flexible material.
6. (Currently Amended) The container of claim [4] 1, wherein said sealing ring is an O-ring.
7. (Original) The container of claim 5, wherein said hold down ring is concave on one side.
8. (Currently Amended) The container of claim [4] 1, wherein said flange includes at least one stop and at least one slot.
9. (Currently Amended) The container of claim [4] 1, wherein said handle comprises a closed finger for locking and an open finger for unlocking said closure assembly on said container.
10. (Original) The container of claim 9, wherein said handle includes a male threaded bottom surface.
11. (Original) The container of claim 10, wherein said bottom support includes a key protrusion and a female threaded top surface.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a centrifuge sample container, comprising the steps of:

providing a closure assembly comprising a handle having threads;

a flange;

a hold down ring;

a sealing ring; and

a bottom support having threads to releasably mate with the handle;

placing said sealing ring on said bottom support;

placing said hold down ring on said sealing ring;

inserting said flange onto said bottom sandwiching said sealing ring and said hold down ring in-between;

connecting said handle to said bottom support wherein the hold down ring and the sealing ring are disposed between the bottom support and the flange; and

inserting the closure assembly into an opened end of the sample container.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

rotating the closure assembly to a locked position to effect a static seal.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said sealing ring is an O-ring.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said hold down ring is concave on one side and is a flexible material.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said flange includes at least one stop and at least one slot.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said handle and said bottom support are complimentary threaded.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said bottom support includes a key protrusion.

19. (Currently Amended) A sample container, comprising:

means for locking said container;

means for sealing said container wherein said means for sealing comprises:

a handle having threads;

a flange;

a hold down ring;

a sealing ring; and

a bottom support having threads to releasably mate with the handle wherein the hold down ring and the sealing ring are disposed between the bottom support and the flange; and

means for unlocking said container.

20. (Original) The container of claim 19, wherein said means for locking is a closed finger.

21. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 19, wherein said ~~means for sealing~~ sealing ring is an O-ring.

22. (Original) The container of claim 19, wherein said means for unlocking is an open finger.